

Sent: Friday, August 18, 2006 6:24 PM
To: DocketClerk, FPB
Subject: Docket # FV-06-311

To FPB Docket Clerk:

On behalf of the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin we have the following comments and suggested change to make to the proposed United States Standards for Grades of Cultivated Ginseng.

Specifically we would suggest a minor revision to **paragraph 51.1333 Sample and Sample Size**. We suggest the paragraph be re-written as follows:

"Each sample shall be a composite sample of at least 48 ounces or at least 1350 grams for any lot up to 1000 pounds, and at least an additional 48 ounces or at least 1350 grams for each additional 5000 pounds in the lot".

The purpose of this change is to reduce or eliminate the need for an inspector to have to tamper or adjust a sample size after it has initially been drawn to make it fit exact sample size requirements.

Beyond that the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin would like to go on record as supporting the development of USDA standards for cultivated ginseng.

This will be a significant forward stride for our industry. The absence of a uniform, documented system for grading in the past has created an unfair trade barrier for our producers. Sales activity will now be able to take place in an setting which will use objective vs. subjective criteria. The concept of USDA standards is recognized and respected world wide for a wide array of agricultural products, cultivated ginseng is long overdue for joining the ranks. Lastly, marketing and branding of cultivated ginseng will be aided by it's association with USDA standards.

Thank You for your support.

Sincerely

Butch Weege
Executive Director
Ginseng Board of Wisconsin